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ROBERT SCHELL

1815-1900



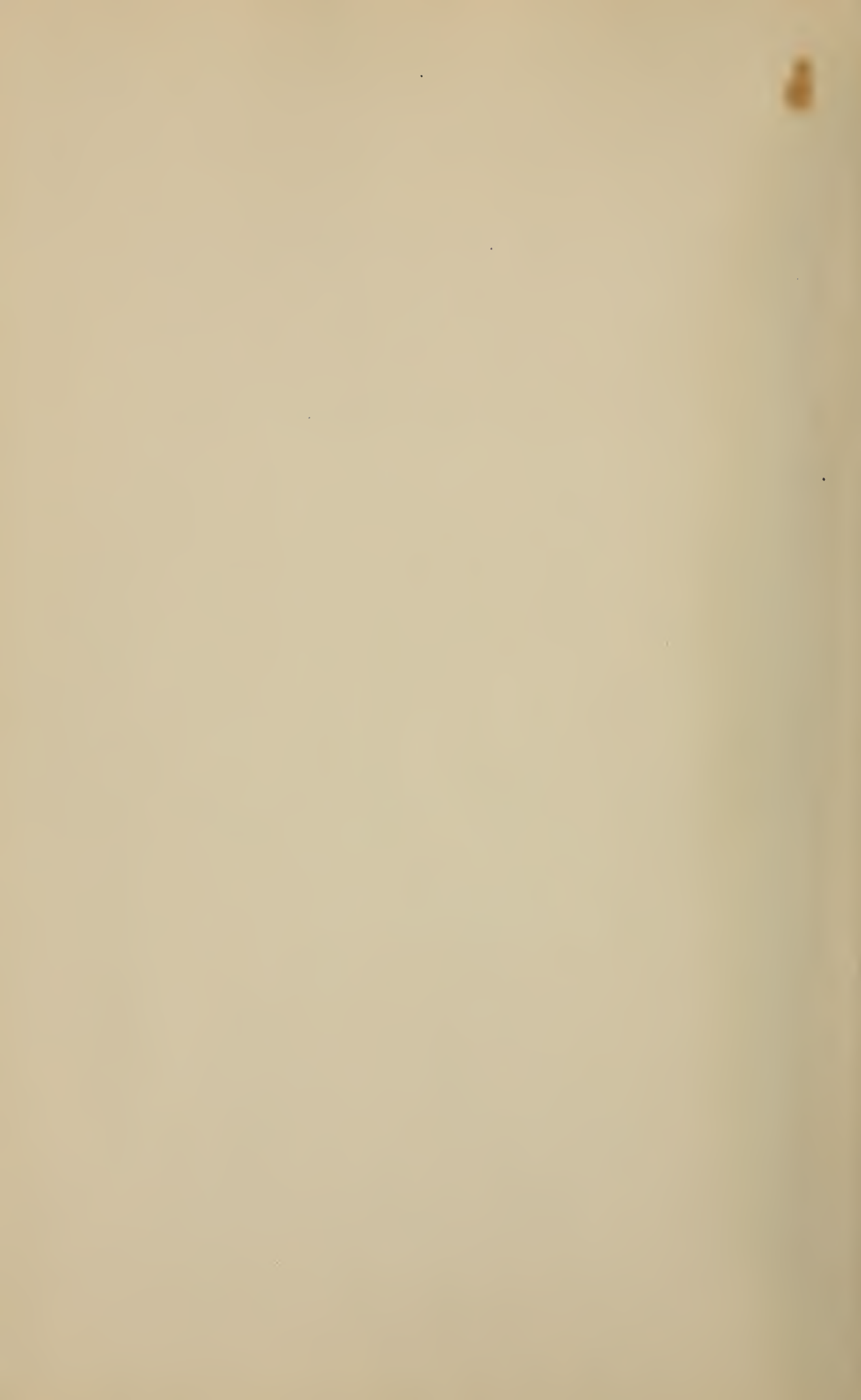
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SMITHSONIAN DEPOSIT







IN MEMORIAM



IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT SCHELL

BORN IN RHINEBECK, N. Y., OCTOBER 8, 1815

DIED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, MAY 8, 1900

"The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust"

NEW YORK
PRIVATELY PRINTED

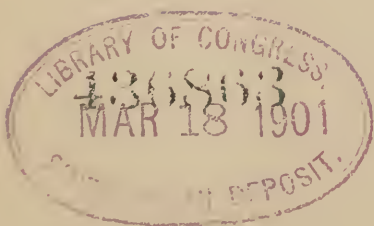
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EDITION OF TWO HUNDRED COPIES
PRINTED FOR F. ROBERT SCHELL



NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Robert Schell died at his residence, Thirty-three West Fifty-sixth Street, in the City of New York, on Tuesday, the Eighth day of May, Nineteen Hundred.

Funeral Services were held in the Marble Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street, on Friday morning, the Eleventh day of May.

Mr. Schell had been identified with the New York Historical Society for over half a century, having been admitted to its membership on April Fourth, Eighteen Hundred and Forty-eight.

His brother, Augustus Schell, died March Twenty-eighth, Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-four, being at that time President of the Society. A few months after his decease, Mr. Robert Schell became Treasurer of the Society, which office he held at the time of his death, having been annually re-elected.

He left a munificent bequest to the Society, for its building fund, of Twenty-five thousand dollars. Desirous of preserving for his friends the affectionate tributes paid to his memory, the following pages have been collated.

ROBERT H. KELBY,
Librarian.

ADDRESS OF REV. EDWARD B. COE, D.D.

ADDRESS AT THE FUNERAL OF
MR. ROBERT SCHELL,

HELD IN THE MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
MAY 11, 1900,

BY THE REV. EDWARD B. COE, D.D.

I HAVE been asked to say a few words, and only a few words, in affectionate appreciation of the character and life of Mr. Schell.

It is at once a sad and a pleasant duty, but it is one which I do not find altogether easy to perform. He would not, I think, have been unwilling that we should give expression to our kind regard for him, and to our profound sorrow at his death. But anything like eulogy would have been most offensive to his modest nature and would be equally distasteful to his nearest friends. It may thus easily happen that what seems to us wholly inadequate would have appeared to him, and would appear to them, excessive and unseemly.

In one respect, however, Mr. Schell was singularly fortunate. He lived to be more than eighty-four years old. Many men who reach that age find that they have outlived their friends, and are more or less out of sympathy with those among whom their later years are passed. Mr. Schell never outlived his friends. He never lost his youthfulness of spirit. He was fond of young people, and they were no less fond of him. He was interested in their thoughts and in their interests, and his mind was as alert and often as playful as theirs. You may have seen him in a company of people, not one of whom was half as old as he, and yet he seemed as young as any of them. His sense of humor was not deadened by the advance of years in spite of obvious physical infirmities and limitations. He kept his youthfulness and even his mirthfulness of manner and spirit to the last.

Now this, which was one of his most charming characteristics, had this effect : that we all knew him, and (may I not add?) all loved him. We do not need to have anyone tell us what manner of man he was. He did not belong to a past generation, he was one of us. His face, his

voice, his genial presence are at this moment vividly before our minds; they will long linger in our memories.

But this buoyancy of temper is, after all, like the sparkling foam on the surface of the river, whose *power* lies in the strong and steady push of its deeper currents. And the deeper currents of Mr. Schell's nature set strongly toward that which was true and noble and good.

He came to this city in his boyhood. He was one of a notable group of brothers, all of whom were men of force, of distinction, of wide influence. They filled high places, and they filled them well. The same is true of him who was the last survivor of the group. He did not seek offices or honors, but they were thrust upon him, because men knew him, and needed him, and trusted him. He was a member of many societies, for he was eminently a social man. He was president or director in many institutions. Long after he had reached the age at which most men have retired from active business, he was still at the head of one of our most respectable banks. Now this does not happen unless a man possesses two things: one is a vigorous mind, and the other is

a trustworthy character ; unless he is at once alert and sagacious and strictly honest. All this Mr. Schell certainly was. Conservative he doubtless was in his views of many things—political, financial, commercial, social ; but he was quick to perceive new conditions, and as far as possible, to adopt himself to them. He was an exceptionally judicious counsellor in practical matters, and no opinion carried greater weight than his in the various boards of which he was a member. And then he was a man of absolute integrity. He was far too noble and high-minded to stoop to anything that was—I will not say dishonorable, but even questionable. Men knew this, and therefore they respected him and confided in him. In these days in which it sometimes seems as if the very foundations of morality were giving way beneath our feet, it is a comfort to remember that there are such men—many of them—in places of responsibility and influence in this city and throughout the land ; men who will not for any consideration whatever, violate their sense of duty or do what they know that the law of God forbids. Every such man is like the tower of David at Jerusalem, which was “ builded for an

armory," and which was to the city both an ornament and a defence.

Even in his business life, men must, I think, have been attracted to Mr. Schell by his rare kindliness of spirit. He was a man of force, sometimes abrupt in speech and manner, a man of quick decisions and of positive opinions; but he had a hearty interest in other people. Who of us will not long remember his graceful and cordial courtesy? And he was always ready to help, so far as it lay in his power to do so, any one who needed help. No friend ever called at his house whom he did not, if it was possible, go down to see, often at the cost of much personal inconvenience and discomfort. He had in large measure the beautiful grace of hospitality, which so many in our day seem too busy to cultivate and manifest. He was also, as very many here can testify, a man of great generosity, giving constantly and freely to individuals, to the Church, to more than one college, to the missionary work, to a thousand things. I must not say much about this, lest I should seem to praise him, as I must not say anything about the loving and reverential regard in which he was held by his large

circle of relatives and friends. But you well know what the fact was, though I am sure no one knows how constantly and liberally he gave to advance the cause of Christ, and to help every honest and wise endeavor to promote the welfare of his fellow-men. He gave not so much out of a large purse as out of a large heart; he gave joyfully as well as from a sense of duty.

A sense of duty—this was, I think, the governing motive in all his life. I shall venture to refer to one proof of it, which he gave, because it was publicly given, though it is very personal and very sacred. He had long been a Christian—I do not know how long—a sincere believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, a humble and conscientious follower of Christ, a daily student of the Bible, a man of prayer; but he had never made public confession of his Christian faith. He did this only a few years ago, rising here in this church and entering into the full communion of the church. There are, no doubt, some of you men who know what a hard thing that is to do; some of you who may yourselves have done it; some of you who have not done it, though you know you ought to do it. I shall never forget the re-

mark which was made to me years ago by a man of great intelligence, now dead, for whose sincere and earnest Christian character I had the profoundest respect, but who was not a member of the church. He said to me: "It is almost impossible for a man who is over fifty years of age to take that step." Mr. Schell was over seventy years of age; he was a prominent man in this community; he felt that he ought to take that step, and he took it. He took it from a sense of duty to his Master. And there is no one here, I am sure, who does not respect and admire him for taking it. It shows sufficiently what manner of man he was.

It is sad to think that we shall see his face no more, that his work on earth is done, that he is gone forever from this world; but at this solemn hour we may reverently and gratefully thank God for what He gave to him. He granted him long life; He sustained him under many bitter trials; He enabled him to do a good work; He gave him a perfectly childlike and undoubting faith in the Lord Christ Jesus; and, at last, like a little child who falls asleep when the day is over, He took him sweetly and without a struggle from

the earthly to the heavenly home. What more
could He have done for him ?

And He has given to us his memory to cherish,
and his example to follow.

RESOLUTIONS



NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the New York Historical Society, held on the ninth day of May, 1900, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the New York Historical Society have heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death at his residence in this city, on Tuesday, the eighth day of May, 1900, of Mr. Robert Schell, the Treasurer of the Society.

Resolved, That this Committee will attend the funeral, Friday morning, the eleventh instant, from the Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street, at ten o'clock, and respectfully request the members of the Society to join in this tribute of respect.

Resolved, That the President of the Society be requested to prepare a memorial minute of our late Associate and Treasurer to be read at the next meeting of the Society.

DANIEL PARISH, JR.,
Secretary.

AT a stated meeting of the New York Historical Society, held, on the fifth day of June, 1900, the Hon.

John A. King, President of the Society, submitted and read the following memorial minute :

In obedience to the foregoing resolutions, I have with unaffected sorrow at the loss of my venerable friend and associate Robert Schell, late Treasurer of this Society, prepared the following minute in memorandum :

To his great virtues, his unalloyed assiduity in the discharge of his duties, to the faithful maintenance of the financial trusts in his hands, and to the gentle deportment of manner and character which were so marked in his long and distinguished life. He loved the Society and was happy in all his connection with it, and in his last will has remembered it so munificently.

Mr. Schell was born at Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, N. Y., on October 8, 1815, and was the son of Christian and Elizabeth Hughes Schell. His grandfather was Richard Schell from the Palatinate of the Rhine, whence he came about one hundred and fifty years ago and settled with others of his fellow-countrymen in Rhinebeck, on the banks of the Hudson River. They were of a noted emigration, and though not blessed with large pecuniary resources, yet they had the solid virtues of a strong and religious people, determined to found a settlement in the New World, where they could be free from religious persecutions and could live in peace and charity with themselves

and the inhabitants, who were their neighbors. They were a domestic, thrifty, and frugal people, and brought with them their industry and Christian habits and moral principles. Mr. Richard Schell was of this emigration, and from him have descended a family of marked and great moral virtue. Christian, his son, married, in 1804, Elizabeth Hughes, a woman of strong character and a member of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church. He was a business man of enlarged views, a Democrat, and a patriot, as in 1812 he raised and commanded a Volunteer Company for defence of the City of New York. He gave his sons a classic education, until his early death put an end to his plans. Augustus was the only professional man. The widow soon removed to New York, and there continued to impress her character upon the children. She was a good woman, domestic, and made her home so attractive, the children were fond of passing the evenings in her society. Robert, in due time, entered into business pursuits, and became a merchant, and Augustus rose in his professional career. They were a happy and devoted family. They were simple in their tastes and habits and seeking to do good, and to foster the charitable institutions as they became necessary with the growth of the population of the great metropolis. Augustus, being the eldest and more in contact with the outer world, through his profession, led the way, and finding congenial objects wherein they might

work together. Robert and himself joined sundry societies of learning and philanthropy, and we find them, year by year, progressing in their useful beneficence, swerving not from the rules of Christian rectitude. Thus it was that as early as 1845 Augustus was very active in the interests of the New York Historical Society, being a member of its Executive Committee from 1845 to 1870, and its Chairman for twenty years ; its President from January 2, 1882, and was President until his death, March 28, 1884. Mr. Robert Schell was admitted as a member of the New York Historical Society April 4, 1848. He remained an annual member until January 29, 1885, when he constituted himself a life member. He was elected Treasurer of the Society January 6, 1885, succeeding the late Benjamin B. Sherman in that office, and was Treasurer at the time of his death. His was a long, useful, and faithful service of fifty-two years, and during the latter fifteen of these years he was the honored and scrupulously exact Treasurer of the Society, always ready for duty and a wise counsellor in the management of its affairs, and greatly assisting in the choice and purchase of the land on the west side of the Park, intended for the new building. He had faith in the Society, and though unable in his life-time to accomplish that which he had so earnestly at heart, he has gloriously sealed that love and regard by making in his will a noble and munificent bequest of twenty-five

thousand dollars for the Building Fund. He knew its absolute need, and with his wise, generous, and keen foresight he was willing so to kindle the hearts and feelings of other wealthy New Yorkers, and of others who might come to dwell in our midst of their duty and privilege to contribute to one of the oldest societies in the city, which is free from debt of any kind, but now positively needing a new building wherein to store the treasures of art and constantly increasing library. May this, his last gift of benevolence, thus crowning as it were his many years of active services, be an incentive to others to share with the Society in the distribution of their wealth, so that ere long the land which our venerable Treasurer assisted in procuring may again by his further benevolence be soon covered with a building worthy of New York and of the Society.

Mr. Schell was married in 1850 to Mary S. Taber, daughter of Corey Taber, and with her he dwelt in great happiness until about four years ago, when the tender cord was broken and he was left to mourn her loss, as he most faithfully did ; for his life was that “ of the domestic circle, contributing by his kindliness and gentle nature to the happiness of his kinfolk, and the comfort of the stranger within his gate.” “ He was the soul of honor in business ; his conscience was sensitive not merely to evil, but to the very suggestion of it. Ought was a sacred word in the vocabu-

lary of his transactions with men. He was ever kind and considerate in his relations with his subordinates, but his rigid justice was proverbial with them." "Robert Schell was one of the most distinguished members of the old guard of mercantile New York. He was an old-fashioned man, however, only in his most charming courtesy and affability. In everything else he was fully abreast of this most progressive and intelligent age."

Mr. Schell belonged to many of the old societies of our city. He is the last of the children of Christian Schell, surviving his other brothers, all of whom had been conspicuous in their day and generation. Like them he had become a Democrat of the old school, never seeking for promotion in political life, but always doing his full duty, and with positive opinions. He was a true friend, quiet in his way, and in his habits, not caring for the demonstrative conditions of modern society, but satisfied with the comforts and happiness of a well-regulated Christian home. He had been nurtured in the Dutch Church, and to respect the worship of that Church. He was a member of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, Fifth Avenue on the corner of Twenty-ninth Street. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, of the St. Nicholas Society, and of the St. Nicholas Club. He was President of the Bank of the Metropolis twenty years, from which office he resigned five years ago. He was Vice-Presi-

dent of the German Savings Bank ; a member of the Council of the University of New York ; a Trustee of Rutgers College, of Woodlawn Cemetery, of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, and of the Presbyterian Hospital ; a member of the American Geographical Society, and a member of the Uptown Association, and a Director of the New York and Harlem Railroad Company ; and also a member of the Botanical Garden Association.

I have thus drawn together a brief memorial of the salient points of the life of one whom we have been permitted to work and be associated with, revealing a character of unspotted fidelity to duty and of sterling integrity, of great simplicity, so very rare in these busy days ; a faithful friend and a wise adviser, of cool and sound judgment, and withal a Christian gentleman, and of large beneficence. With you, I shall deeply feel his loss, and will sacredly cherish remembrance of the noble example which he has left to us. If unto us there is sorrow, let us not forget to offer our sincere sympathies to the only son and to the other loving relatives and friends who survive him.

I know of no higher commendation than that of his pastor, who has said of him : “ I am glad that I knew Robert Schell. He strengthened my confidence in the possibilities of human nature. He emphasized my faith in the gospel of life and Christlikeness. He

stimulated my desire to make the world better whilst passing through it."

Mr. Alfred T. Ackert, with remarks, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the memorial tribute of our late Associate and Treasurer, Robert Schell, be entered on the records of the Society, and a copy duly attested be transmitted to the family of Mr. Schell.

Extract from the minutes.

SYDNEY H. CARNEY, JR.,
Recording Secretary.

RUTGERS COLLEGE, NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

THE following memorial minute in reference to the late Robert Schell, Esq., was adopted by the Trustees of Rutgers College, at their meeting held June 20, 1900 :

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT SCHELL, ESQ.

Mr. Robert Schell, who died at his residence in New York City on May 8th last, was a man greatly beloved by all who knew him for his genial spirit and his engaging manner, while he was universally respected for his integrity and nobility of character. A financier of conspicuous ability, President for many years of the Bank of the Metropolis, an officer of many public institutions, he enjoyed, in an eminent degree, the confidence and honor of the community in which his life was passed, and in which he was widely known.

He was at the same time interested in all that concerns the higher life of the city and the nation, and gave freely of his wealth to different educational institutions, as well as to humane and religious objects. He was a loyal and generous supporter of the Reformed Church of which he was a member ; and its missionary boards, as well. Rutgers and Hope Colleges have reason to cherish his memory with gratitude and honor.

Elected a Trustee of Rutgers College in 1894, he was prevented by physical infirmity from attending many meetings of this Board ; but manifested his hearty interest in the College by his personal presence whenever circumstances permitted, by the contribution of over \$16,000 at different times to its treasury, and by leaving to it a bequest of \$10,000 additional in his will. It was a pleasure to be associated with him, and his death is a loss to the Church, the College, and the community.

EDWARD B. COE	} <i>Committee.</i>
H. W. BOOKSTAVEN	
J. B. DRURY	

June 20, 1900.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

THE Council of New York University, at a special meeting called for Thursday, June 7, 1900, adopted a minute upon the decease of their fellow-member, Mr.

Robert Schell, and appointed that the same should be read at the public commencement this day.

Mr. Robert Schell entered the Council of the University in the year 1884, at a time coincident with the revival of new interest in the community in the work of this foundation. Throughout the entire period of his service he has been eminently wise, faithful, and liberal in his support of the manifold interests intrusted to our care. The burdens of advancing age did not prevent his frequent presence at University Heights. He proved by his liberal gifts also his great interest in this new outpost of the University. At the same time he evinced a comprehensive interest as well in the maintenance of the University's work at Washington Square and at East Twenty-sixth Street.

In all his intercourse of life he proved himself a public-spirited citizen and high-minded Christian. We shall preserve his name and memory among those who have from the beginning proven themselves devoted friends of Christian higher learning in our City of New York.

HENRY M. MACCRACKEN,
Chancellor.

At the first meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences after the summer recess, the following resolutions were adopted regarding the late Mr. Robert Schell,

whose decease occurred at the close of the last collegiate year.

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Robert Schell the Faculty of Arts and Sciences recognizes the loss sustained by the University of a loyal friend, and an earnest and intelligent worker in the University's behalf. Entering the Council sixteen years ago, after the death of his brother, Mr. Augustus Schell, he aimed from the first to promote still further the growth and prosperity of an institution in which his brother had evidenced his lively interest by a liberal bequest. His conscientious discharge of his duties as a member of the Board, his thoughtful consideration of every plan proposed for the enhancement of its usefulness, not less than his direct contributions to the removal of our department to its new site on University Heights, have shown that fidelity to trust reposed in him was a ruling principle in his character.

Resolved, That the Faculty desires to convey to Mr. Schell's family the expression of its sorrow at the death of one by whose wise counsels the University has greatly profited, and whose example will ever be an incentive to manly Christian living.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to send a copy of this minute to Mr. Schell's family.

Minutes of the Faculty meeting of October 4, 1900.

WILLIAM K. GILLET, *Secretary.*

PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

AT a meeting of the Board of Managers of The Presbyterian Hospital, held October 9, 1900, the following minute was adopted :

The Board of Managers deeply lament the death of their late associate, Robert Schell, who passed away on the eighth of last May, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

Mr. Schell became a member of the Board in 1876, and until laid aside by illness was faithful and conscientious in his attendance on its meetings, and the discharge of his duties.

While leading a very busy life, he gave much time to societies that promote the public welfare. He was a member of the Council of the University of the City of New York, a Trustee of Rutgers College, Treasurer of the New York Historical Society, and a Trustee of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

In business life he held many honorable and important positions, and in all transactions was considered the very soul of honor. Socially he was most kindly and hospitable.

Wide-reaching in his sympathies, calm in council, wise in his judgments, and decided in his convictions, he was admirably fitted to be a valued counsellor in the management of benevolent institutions.

His charities, which were many, were so quietly be-

stowed that only the subjects, in most cases, knew of them. The establishment of a Missionary Hospital in memory of his wife, and the endowment of a professorship of biblical instruction in Hope College, were among the latter acts of his life. A large number of individual beneficiaries join in the general mourning for his loss.

In his death the Church has lost a most worthy member, the institutions he served a wise counsellor, and the city a prominent example of Christian citizen.

C. W. McALPIN,
Recording Secretary.

BANK OF THE METROPOLIS

AT a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Metropolis held May 10, 1900, to take appropriate cognizance of the death of Mr. Robert Schell, which occurred at his home in this borough, No. 33 West Fifty-sixth Street, on the eighth day of May, on motion duly made and seconded the following Preamble and Resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, By the will of God our associate, Mr. Robert Schell, departed this life on the 8th inst., and we desire to place on the minutes of this Bank the expression of our profound grief at that event, and at the same time record our affectionate regard for himself personally, and our deep sense of the obligations

which we, as well as all others interested in the welfare of this institution, were under to our lamented friend.

Mr. Schell was the second President of this Bank, elected January 29, 1872, which office he filled for twenty-two years, and resigned only because he considered that advancing years had rendered him no longer capable of bearing the burdens of its active duties, but he continued a member of this Board to the time of his death.

During all the periods of adversity or prosperity in that long presidency, Mr. Schell remained the same, neither unduly elated nor cast down, but exhibiting an unwavering confidence in the future of this institution, and giving to this Bank, for more than a quarter of a century, the benefit of great business experience, a natural aptitude for the business of a bank, and still more, the inestimable advantage that is derived from a character which knew only how to do the right without regard to the expedient, and in whom commercial honesty and honor were an instinct.

He endeared himself to all who came in contact with him and in a singular manner to us, his associates in this Board, as well as to all others connected with this Bank. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this estimate of our departed friend be inscribed on the minute-book of this Bank, and that a copy thereof, signed by the President and Cash-

ier, be forwarded, together with the expression of our sincerest sympathy and condolence, to the family of Mr. Schell.

THEODORE ROGERS, *President*,
E. C. EVANS, *Cashier*.

GERMAN SAVINGS BANK

AT a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the German Savings Bank in the City of New York, held May 9, 1900, the President communicating the sad intelligence of the death of Mr. Robert Schell, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

The Trustees of the German Savings Bank in the City of New York have received with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of their associate and friend, Mr. Robert Schell, the Vice-President of this Bank.

He was one, and the last remaining, of the incorporators of this Bank, and for over eighteen years one of its Vice-Presidents, at all times ready to devote his time and energy to the furtherance of its interests.

In every field to which humanity invoked the services of the philanthropist his counsel, labor, and earnest benevolence were always effective.

Bowing in sadness to our affliction, we shall always bear in grateful remembrance his virtues and his ser-

vices, and direct this minute to be engrossed on the records of the Bank.

Resolved, That this Board attend the funeral services in a body, that the flag of the Bank be daily displayed at half-mast until the day of the funeral ; that these resolutions be published in one of the daily papers of this city, and that an engrossed copy be sent to the family of Mr. Schell, as an evidence of our sympathy.

NEW YORK AND HARLEM RAILROAD COMPANY

THE Board of Directors of the New York and Harlem Railroad Company, at a meeting held Monday, May 21, 1900, adopted the following memorial, and ordered the same to be spread upon the minutes :

In the death of Robert Schell, this Board has lost one of its most valued members. For the many years during which he served as a Director, he was conscientious and faithful in the discharge of every duty.

In his long and busy life he was the custodian of many trusts, and in the performance of the delicate and difficult tasks which such positions impose, he exhibited rare wisdom and judgment.

It was his special work to look after, as Director and custodian, the affairs of estates, banks and corporations, and he did it with satisfaction to all parties in interest.

We, the Directors of the New York and Harlem Railroad Company, feel the loss, not only of his advice and judgment, but personally.

His quick sympathies, and genial and kindly nature, made warm friends of all who were so fortunate as to know him well.

E. V. W. ROSSITER,
Secretary.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY

AT a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Woodlawn Cemetery held June 12, 1900, the following minute was adopted :

The Board of Directors of The Woodlawn Cemetery desire to record their appreciation of the character and services of their late colleague, Robert Schell, who departed this life May 8, 1900. He was faithful in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him. Kind and considerate in his intercourse with his fellow-directors, thereby commanding their appreciation and esteem. While death came to him at a ripe old age, yet we sincerely mourn his departure ; we shall miss his wise counsel and pleasant voice at the meetings of the Board.

The Board tender their heartfelt sympathy to the family and relatives of their deceased associate.

WILLIAM T. BOOTH,
Secretary.

PRESS NOTICES

PRESS NOTICES

Robert Schell, who resigned the presidency of the Bank of the Metropolis five years ago on account of ill-health, died in this city yesterday. He was born at Rhinebeck, N. Y., and was connected with many charitable, benevolent, and educational institutions, being at the time of his death a Trustee of Rutgers College and a member of the Council of the New York University.—*The Daily Democrat, Amsterdam, N. Y., May 9, 1900.*

Robert Schell died suddenly in New York City recently. He was Vice-President of the German Savings Bank in New York, and Treasurer of the New York Historical Society. Mr. Schell was born in Rhinebeck, in 1815, and was one of the last of a once prominent Dutchess County family. He was the son of Christian and Elizabeth Schell. He was married in 1850 to Mary S. Taber. He leaves one son, Francis Schell. He was a brother of Richard, Edward, and Augustus Schell, all of whom he survived.

Mr. Schell had been President of the Bank of the Metropolis for twenty years, resigning five years ago. He was a Director of the New York and Harlem Railroad, a member of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, and was an active member of the New York Historical Society. He was also a member of the

American Geographical Association, the Uptown Association, and the St. Nicholas Club.— *The News-Press, Poughkeepsie, May 10, 1900.*

Robert Schell, who resigned the presidency of the Bank of the Metropolis five years ago on account of ill-health, died in this city yesterday. He was born at Rhinebeck, N. Y., and was connected with many charitable, benevolent, and educational institutions, being at the time of his death a Trustee of Rutgers College and a member of the Council of the New York University.— *The Register, Newburgh, N. Y., May 9, 1900.*

Robert Schell, who died on May 8th, was the last of four noted brothers, he, Richard, Augustus, and Edward forming a family quartet nearly as famous as the celebrated "four Field brothers," David Dudley, Stephen Johnson, Cyrus West, and Henry Martyn. At Mr. Schell's funeral on Friday I saw among the mourners four of his life-long associates, men prominent in business and finance, each of whom long ago passed the threescore and ten mark in life's journey. These were Charles L. Tiffany, Samuel Sloan, Joseph Park, and William B. Isham, four directors in the Bank of the Metropolis, of which Mr. Schell was President for twenty years. Mr. Tiffany is head of the house of Tiffany & Co., in Union Square; Mr. Sloan is the famous "Sam" Sloan of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Rail-

road ; Mr. Park is head of the firm of Park & Tilford, and Mr. Isham is the well-known banker.

Robert Schell would have appealed to the heart of Magistrate Crane. He possessed in marked degree the rarest of human attributes — gratitude. Henry Clews, who was most active in raising a fund for the widow of ex-Mayor Hall, sent an appeal to a director in the Bank of the Metropolis, and the reply brought not only a check for \$25 from that gentleman, but one for \$50 from Mr. Schell, who had not been approached. The latter explained afterward to Mr. Clews that when Oakey Hall was Mayor, in 1869, he had granted him a favor, and he thought the privilege of contributing toward the widow's fund was an excellent opportunity to reciprocate the courtesy. This act was characteristic of the man. He never forgot a kindness.—*The New York Press*, May 14, 1900.

The late Robert Schell was one of the most distinguished members of the old guard of mercantile New York. He was an old-fashioned man, however, only in his most charming courtesy and affability ; in everything else he was fully abreast of this progressive and most exacting age.

He was the life of his domestic circle, contributing by his kindliness and good-nature to the happiness of kinsfolk and the comfort of the stranger within his

gates. The death of his dear wife, a few years since, was like the putting out of the light of his eyes. To the last he gathered the flowers which she loved, and was heard sobbing for her in the middle of the night.

He was the soul of honor in business. His conscience was sensitive not merely to evil but to the very suggestion of it. "Ought" was a sacred word in the vocabulary of his transactions with men. He was ever kind and considerate in his relations with subordinates, but his rigid justice was proverbial among them.

In the church he was constantly responsive to duty. His pastor had no more loyal helper, no dearer friend. How we shall miss him ! It would be quite impossible to make suitable mention of his beneficences, since he would allow no trumpet to be sounded before him. Not even his own left hand could have invoiced what was done by his right. The giving of a Missionary Hospital in memory of his wife was one of the last of his numberless charities. An army of poor people, in every part of our country, has been more or less dependent upon him.

I shall never forget his courage in making public profession of his faith in Christ. It was a step long contemplated but postponed from time to time ; until, in an hour of sore affliction, the question came to an issue. His resolution formed, there was no shrinking ; but who shall measure the heroism of that open

avowal? He felt his duty, and, at whatever cost, must do it. This is the stuff that men are made of.

His death was painless and peaceful. He had long looked forward to the home-bringing, the reunion in the Father's house. "So part we sadly in the wilderness, to meet again in sweet Jerusalem."

In recalling his life and death I am reminded of what Sir Walter Scott said, at the last, to his son-in-law: "Lockhart, my dear, there is nothing better in the world than to be a good man."

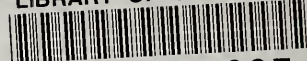
I am glad that I knew Robert Schell. He strengthened my confidence in the possibilities of human nature; he emphasized my faith in the gospel of life and Christlikeness; he stimulated my desire to make the world better while passing through it.

Farewell, dear friend, for a little while. We do not sorrow as those that have no hope. *Auf wiedersehen*—until we meet again.—DAVID JAMES BURRELL.—
The Christian Intelligencer, May 23, 1900.

Robert Schell, a prominent banker of New York, who was years ago one of New York's leading jobbers in jewelry, died suddenly, May 8th, at his home, 33 West 56th Street, New York. Death was due to pneumonia. Mr. Schell will be remembered by the older jewellers as having been prominent among the dealers in Maiden Lane for nearly thirty years, namely between 1844 and 1872.

Mr. Schell was born at Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, N. Y., October 8, 1815, and came of a prominent family. In 1844 he joined Louis S. Fellows, who had been established in the jewelry business for many years, and with him formed the firm of Louis S. Fellows & Schell. The firm, who were importers of fancy goods and watches and also jobbers in jewelry, built up a large trade and prospered until 1866, when Mr. Fellows died. The business was then continued by Mr. Schell under the name of Robert Schell & Co. until 1872, at which time he retired from the jewelry trade altogether. Mr. Schell became identified with many prominent banks of New York, and among other positions which he held was that of President of the Bank of the Metropolis for twenty years, Vice-President of the German Savings Bank, a Director in the New York and Harlem Railroad, a member of the New York Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Council of the University of the City of New York, and a member of other large concerns and institutions. At the time of his death Mr. Schell was Treasurer of the New York Historical Society, a position he had held for twenty years, and was also actively connected with the American Geographical Society. He was also a member of St. Nicholas Club, St. Nicholas Society, Uptown Association, and of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church. —*The Jewellers' Circular-Weekly*, May 16, 1900.

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